

Message Text

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67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SNM-02 IO-11 JUSE-00 OES-03 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /068 W

----- 119675

O P 160050Z JAN 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2413

INFO DEA HDQS WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

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GUATEMALA FOR ASST. SEC. ROGERS; LA PAZ FOR AMB. VANCE;

ARA FOR DEP. ASST. SEC. LUERS; S/NM FOR ERNST AND DUGSTAD;

DEA FOR EOI-CUSACK

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: EXCELSIOR STORY ON VANCE/OJEDA AGREEMENT

REF: (A) MEXICO 574; (B) AMB JOVA/DEPT. ASST. SEC. LUERS

TELCON JAN 15, (C) ALBERTI/ERNST/DUGSTAD TELCON

JAN 15., (D) MEXICO 537

1. SUMMARY: REFTEL (A) TRANSMITTED FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE
APPEARING IN JANUARY 15 EXCELSIOR. REPORT APPARENTLY
BASED LARGELY ON INFORMATION CONTAINED IN LETTERS FROM
DEA ADMINISTRATOR AND SECRETARY KISSINGER TO SENATOR
PERCY. THE MEXICAN CAMPAIGN COORDINATOR, DR. GERTZ
MANERO, INFORMED US HE WAS VERY UPSET OVER THIS PUB-
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LICIZING OF CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION. THE MEXICAN

ATTORNEY GENERAL CALLED AMBASSADOR JOVA TO EXPRESS HIS IRRITATION AND EMBARRASSMENT, AND TO ASK THAT WE GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT AS TO HOW TO HELP REPAIR THE DAMAGE. OUR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOW BELOW. END SUMMARY.

2. FIRST INDICATION OF GOM ANGER OVER ARTICLE CAME FROM DR. GERTZ MANERO (MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OVERALL CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR), WHO TOLD US HE CONSIDERED THIS "VERY SERIOUS." HE SAID THAT IF WHAT HE TOLD US HERE WAS TO APPEAR "NEXT DAY" IN WASHINGTON, THEN CONFIDENCE BETWEEN US WOULD BE DESTROYED AND WE COULD NO LONGER SPEAK FRANKLY BETWEEN OURSELVES.

3. MEXICAN ATTORNEY GENERAL OJEDA PAULLADA THEN CALLED AMBASSADOR JOVA TO EXPRESS HIS EXTREME DISPLEASURE AT RELEASE OF WHAT TO HIM CONSTITUTES EMBARRASSING INFORMATION. HE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT REFERENCE TO SATELLITES, AND STATEMENT THAT DEA AGENTS IN MEXICO HAD BEEN INCREASED FROM 22 TO 30. OJEDA COMPLAINED THAT WHILE HE HAD TAKEN POSITION IN MEETINGS WITH US THAT GOOD IDEAS ARE NOT EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF EITHER SIDE, ARTICLE REFLECTS US EFFORT CLAIM CREDIT FOR POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS WITH RESULT THAT HE, OJEDA, APPEARS AS BEING "MANIPULATED" BY THE USG. HE PARTICULARLY REGRETTED WHAT HE CHARACTERIZED AS USG'S RECURRENT THEME OF THE DOLLAR VALUE OF MATERIAL ASSISTANCE BEING PROVIDED FOR MEXICAN NARCOTICS CAMPAIGN. AMBASSADOR JOVA ASSURED OJEDA (AS GERTZ HAD BEEN TOLD PREVIOUSLY) THAT THE DEPT. OF STATE, ALTHOUGH APPROACHED, HAD NOT GIVEN ANY INFORMATION TO THE EXCELSIOR CORRESPONDENT; NEITHER HAD DEA. NONETHELESS, SAID OJEDA, THE DAMAGE HAD BEEN DONE. HE SAID HE WAS AT A LOSS AS TO WHAT TO SAY TO THE PRESIDENT. HE WAS ALREADY BESIEGED BY PRESS BUT WOULD TRY TO SEE PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA BEFORE TALKING TO THE PRESS. OJEDA ASKED THAT WE CONSIDER CAREFULLY AND DISPASSIONATELY HOW WE MIGHT HELP REPAIR DAMAGE.

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4. COMMENT: THESE REVELATIONS OF DETAILS OF US ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY DOLLAR VALUE OF ASSISTANCE AND NUMBERS OF DEA PERSONNEL PRESENT, ARE VERY SENSITIVE FOR OJEDA IN THE AFTERMATH OF HIS WIDELY PUBLICIZED ASSERTION EARLIER THIS WEEK (REF. D) THAT US ASSISTANCE IS LARGELY SYMBOLIC. IT OBVIOUSLY WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT FOR OJEDA TO DENY THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE ARTICLE, ESPECIALLY THE STATEMENTS ON SATELLITES AND DEA AGENTS.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL HIMSELF RECOGNIZES THIS PROBLEM. WHILE WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT COURSE HE WILL CHOOSE TO FOLLOW, HE MIGHT, IN ALL HONESTY, SAY THAT THE USE OF SATELLITES IS NO LONGER BEING CONTEMPLATED; AND DEA AGENTS ARE IN MEXICO AS HIS REQUEST, IN A LIAISON CAPACITY AND TO PROVIDE INFORMATION, EVEN AS MEXICAN AGENTS DO AT TIMES PERFORM SIMILAR CASE WORK IN THE UNITED STATES. END COMMENT.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS: REQUEST DEPT CABLE FULL TEXTS OF LETTERS TO SEN. PERCY.

6. IN ABSENCE LETTER TEXTS WE LACK ESSENTIAL DATA FOR SOUND RECOMMENDATIONS. HOWEVER, ON ASSUMPTION EXCELSIOR ARTICLE COVERS CONTENT OF LETTERS, SUGGEST THAT IF QUERIED BY PRESS, DEPT EMPHASIZE THT THE NARCOTIC PROGRAM HERE IS AN ENTIRELY MEXICAN ONE AND THAT WE ARE COOPERATING BY PROVIDING SOME MATERIAL ASSISTANCE, PLUS SOME PERSONNEL FOR LIEAISON PURPOSES. WE ALSO SHOULD REPLY THAT THE USE OF SATELLITES IS NO LONGER BEING CONSIDERED; AND WE MAY ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT DEA AGENTS IN MEXICO ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED IN PARA (4) ABOVE. MEANWHILE, WE INTEND REFER ALL PRESS INQUIRIES BASED ON THIS ARTICLE TO GOM.

7. IF DEPT SATISFIED THAT INFO IN THIS ARTICLE WAS RE-LEASED BY SEN. PERCY'S OFFICE, DEPT MAY WISH TO INFORM SEN. PERCY OF DIFFICULTIES CREATED FOR OUR NARCOTICS EFFORTS.

JOVA

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